

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 81

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 8, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Weinberg

SYNOPSIS

Condemns Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/24/2015)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** condemning the Boycott, Divestment, and
2 Sanctions movement and the increasing incidents of anti-
3 Semitism.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, There has been a disturbing increase in anti-Semitism
6 worldwide, where Jewish populations are facing increased levels of
7 hatred; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Prejudice against Jews as a national, ethnic, religious, or
9 racial group has no place in New Jersey or in the United States of
10 America; and
11 **WHEREAS**, The United States and Israel have a long relationship and
12 close alliance, each attempting to support the interests of the other;
13 and
14 **WHEREAS**, The State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East,
15 is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in that region; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The elected representatives of New Jersey recognize the
17 importance of demonstrating unwavering support for the Jewish
18 people and for the rights of the State of Israel to exist and defend
19 itself; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
21 (BDS) movement has become a vehicle for spreading anti-Semitism
22 and advocating the elimination and delegitimation of the Jewish
23 State, and represents a strategic threat to the State of Israel; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Efforts to pressure Israel via this movement are gaining
25 momentum on university campuses nationwide, wherein a divide is
26 created between Jewish and minority students by developing
27 resentment on the part of disenfranchised minorities toward Jews
28 and generating anti-Semitic sentiment; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Leaders of the BDS movement have indicated that one of
30 its goals is to remove Israel as the home of the Jewish people, with
31 participants at rallies repeating the slogan, “From the river to the
32 sea, Palestine will be free,” signifying the absence of the State of
33 Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea; and
34 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s elected representatives understand that the
35 goals and activities of campaigns such as BDS in New Jersey are
36 harmful to New Jersey’s relationship with its Jewish citizens and
37 with the Jewish homeland, Israel, and have a deleterious impact on
38 the educational environment; and
39 **WHEREAS**, The call for academic boycotts by the BDS campaign have
40 been condemned by many of our nation’s largest academic
41 associations, over 250 university presidents, and many other
42 leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic
43 freedom; now, therefore,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
46 *State of New Jersey:*

1 to the State of Israel. Efforts to pressure Israel via this movement
2 are gaining momentum on university campuses nationwide, wherein
3 a divide is created between Jewish and minority students by
4 developing resentment on the part of disenfranchised minorities
5 toward Jews and generating anti-Semitic sentiment.

6 New Jersey's elected representatives understand that the goals
7 and activities of campaigns such as BDS in New Jersey are harmful
8 to New Jersey's relationship with its Jewish citizens and the Jewish
9 homeland, Israel, and have a deleterious impact on the educational
10 environment. The call for academic boycotts by the BDS campaign
11 have been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic
12 associations, over 250 university presidents, and many other leading
13 scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic
14 freedom.

15 Thus, New Jersey condemns the international Boycott,
16 Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and its activities as
17 being inherently antithetical and damaging to the causes of peace,
18 justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the
19 Middle East, and for seeking to undermine the Jewish people's right
20 to self-determination, being fulfilled in the State of Israel. New
21 Jersey also condemns activities that contribute directly or indirectly
22 to the denial, violation, or delegitimation of any person's academic
23 freedom, including, but not limited to, promotion of academic
24 boycotts against Israel by the BDS movement. New Jersey opposes
25 all forms of racism and hatred, including anti-Semitism, and
26 opposes attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign
27 state.